

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education



**DELIVERING
FOR ALL VICTORIANS**

Tuesday, 29 January 2018

PREP BAGS SPARK LEARNING ON FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Every prep student in a Victorian Government school will start their education with a new library bag and bundle of books to spark the joy of reading, thanks to the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Education James Merlino today unveiled new library bags, which are being delivered to approximately 57,100 Preps in more than 1,200 schools.

For the first time these bags will include children's books to help encourage a life-long love of reading, along with fun activities, valuable information and resources for families.

Children will receive a number of terrific books, selected by an expert panel of teachers, librarians and literacy experts, including:

- *My Two Blankets* by Irena Kobald
- *Where is Galah?* by Sally Morgan
- *The Second Sky* by Patrick Guest
- *Frog on a log in a bog* by Andy Griffiths

The books were selected by the panel based on their ability to engage children and families, the quality of the characters and illustrations, and use of language.

As part of its Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, the Labor Government is investing \$22.1 million in workshops and teaching so every child gets a great education from the very first day of school.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Education James Merlino

"We're putting books in the hands of Prep kids to build their literacy and numeracy skills from day one."

"These Prep bags will encourage a love of reading in children, so they get the most out of their education and the best start in life."